



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

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Program: *Phytophthora ramorum*

Date: May 7, 2004

Trace forward surveys continue and a national survey is getting underway as PPQ determines the distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

*P. ramorum* has been confirmed in the environment in Lake County, California, a county not yet under quarantine. The pathogen was found on four bay laurels (*Umbellularia californica*) in a wooded setting. Two tanoaks and a Douglas fir tested negative. Lake is the thirteenth infested California county. The county will be quarantined by PPQ; a letter notifying state plant regulatory officials of this action is being prepared.

On April 29, PPQ added nursery stock of *Pyracantha koidzumii* (Formosa firethorn) to the *P. ramorum* associated plant list. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that *P. ramorum* has been found associated with a previously unlisted plant in April. This plant is a woody ornamental found in a nursery setting. The plant cannot be recognized as a host until Koch's Postulates are completed.

PPQ amended the April 7 Federal Confirmed Nursery Protocol of April 7, 2004 to provide some relief to nurseries that do not ship interstate (e.g. retail nurseries, dealers, and garden centers, etc.). Under the amendment, when samples at these facilities are found to be positive for *P. ramorum* using approved diagnostic tests only host nursery stock and associated articles need to be placed on hold until delimitation of the infestation within and outside of the nursery are complete. The protocol remains unchanged for nurseries that do ship interstate where all genera of host plants and associated host plants must be held.

*P. ramorum* has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler in 84 facilities in 12 states. The numbers of nurseries or garden centers with positive trace forward samples from the wholesaler by state are California (34), Florida (5), Washington (6), Oregon (9), Texas (5), Colorado (1), Georgia (13), Louisiana (5), North Carolina (8), New Mexico (1), Tennessee (2), and Virginia (1).

The number of confirmed positive facilities from the trace forward, national, and other surveys is 108 in 13 states.